



California Biodiversity Council

Working Landscapes in California

April 30, 2008

Field Tour Agenda

Departing from Mt. Vernon Grange, 3185 Bell Road, Auburn, California

- 11:00 a.m. Convene and Sign in and pick up lunch at the Mt. Vernon Grange
- 11:30 a.m. Depart from Mt. Vernon Grange, 3185 Bell Road, Auburn, California
Doty Ravine Preserve—Lincoln, **Dan Macon**. The preserve is owned by the Placer Land Trust. The property is 427 acres and lies along Doty Ravine northeast of the City of Lincoln. PLT acquired the property on April 1, 2005.

The property will be permanently protected as both agricultural land and as critical vernal pool habitat. Scientific studies have proven that a moderate level of cattle grazing is beneficial for the health of vernal pool ecosystems, helping to reduce the invasion of non-native plants and ensure the propagation of threatened species such as the vernal pool fairy shrimp. Placer Land Trust leases cattle grazing rights on the property.

Dan Macon is grazing ewes and cow-calf pairs on the property. Dan owns the sheep and custom grazes the cattle. There is a severe medusahead problem on most of the acreage. We are trying some intensive grazing techniques to see if higher stock densities applied prior to seedhead formation will severely impact medusahead populations. The property also contains riparian habitat as well.

Natural Trading Company—Lincoln, **Bryan Kaminsky**. Bryan Kaminsky and Caren Hamilton, dba The Natural Trading Company, have purchased the 40-acre parcel at 5841 Fruitvale Road, west of Gold Hill Road, in the Newcastle area of Placer County.

The owners are establishing an organic farm on the property and are interested in selling an agricultural conservation easement to the County or other entity in order to preserve the agricultural and open space characteristics of the property in perpetuity. Placer County's interest in acquisition is being considered pursuant to the objectives of the Placer Legacy Open Space and Agricultural Conservation Program (Placer Legacy) and the goals and policies of the Placer County General Plan. The establishment of an agricultural conservation easement on the property will protect and expand a small yet increasingly important segment of the County's agricultural

economy in a rapidly urbanizing area. It also meets Placer Legacy's goals of promoting sales of locally grown produce and helping to create additional markets for agriculture.

The easement would prevent any use or development of the property that would significantly damage or impair the property or its agricultural values, with the exception of the right to install row crops, construct greenhouse(s), and build one new single-family residence. Family-owned and operated, The Natural Trading Company currently operates an organic farm in Penryn. The parcel proposed for conservation is expected to continue to be used for, and is large enough to sustain, commercial agricultural production. The land is also in an area that possesses the necessary market, infrastructure (e.g., Nevada Irrigation District water), and agricultural support services. The surrounding parcel sizes and land uses is compatible with long-term commercial agricultural production. The Kaminsky's have moved to the property, set up a greenhouse for wheatgrass production, grow produce year round, and are using goats to browse blackberries.

Beard Ranch—Auburn, *Patty Beard*

This started as a dairy in the 40's and 50's and transitioned to a cow-calf operation. The property contains both irrigated and range acreage. It is located in typical oak-woodland-range habitat. The ranch is diversifying into some ag tourism ventures.

4:30 p.m. Return to Mt. Vernon Grange

Dinner

Gold Miners Inn, 121 Bank Street, Grass Valley, California

5:30-6:30 Social Hour

6:30-7:30 Dinner

7:00 TBA—*Connie Best, Managing Director, Pacific Forest Trust*

Note: Transportation will not be provided between the field trip (returning to Mt. Vernon Grange in Auburn) and the dinner (at the Gold Miners Inn in Grass Valley). Please make your own transportation arrangements for this 20-mile drive.



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Thursday, May 1, 2008

Gold Miners Inn, 121 Bank Street, Grass Valley, California

Agenda

- 8:30 - 9:00 Register and Convene at Gold Miners Inn
- 9:00 - 10:00 **Welcome, Opening Remarks and California Biodiversity Council (CBC) Business**
Mike Chrisman, Secretary, California Resources Agency and CBC Co-Chair
Mike Pool, Director, Bureau of Land Management and CBC Co-Chair
CBC Executive Committee—*Chris Nota, CBC Executive Committee Chair, USDA Forest Service*
Reports on California Biodiversity Council (CBC) Projects
CCST Project Report—*Rick Rayburn, California State Parks*
Las Californias Report—*Todd Ferrara, California Resources Agency*
OHV Project Report—*Crystal Crawford and Keith Greer, SANDAG*
California State Water Plan—*Kamyar Guivetchi, California Dept. of Water Resources*
Report on Field Tour—*Dan Macon, Nevada County Land Trust*
- 10:00 - 10:30 **Overview of Working Landscapes and Conservation of Biodiversity**—*Ashley Boren, Sustainable Conservation*
- 10:30 - 10:45 Break
- 10:45 - 12:00 **Panel—Successful Working Landscape Collaborative Efforts**
California Rangeland Conservation Coalition—*Sheila Barry, UC Cooperative Extensions*
Audubon California's Landowners Stewardship Program—*Vance Russell, Audubon California*
California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance—*Allison Jordan, Executive Director*
- 12:00 - 1:00 **Lunch**
- 1:00 - 2:30 **Panel—Selected Programs That Assist in Sustaining Working Landscapes**
Placer Legacy—*Loren Clark, Assistant Planning Director, Placer County Planning Dept.*
California Dept. of Conservation, Farmland Conservancy Program—*Brian Leahy, Asst. Director, Division of Land Resource Protection*
US Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife—*Carrie Thompson, Asst. Regional Coordinator*
California Rangeland Trust—*Devere Dressler, Board Member*
- 2:30 - 3:00 Action Items and Wrap-up